ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF MYSORE.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1940–41.

PART I—ADMINISTRATIVE.

Staff.

Dr. M. H. Krishna, M.A., D.LIT. (Lond.), continued to be the Director of Archæological Researches in addition to his full-time professorial duties at the University. The post of Architectural Assistant remained vacant during the year; proposals regarding the filling up of the post have been submitted to Government. Mr. R. Rama Rao, B.A., Assistant to the Director, went on privilege leave for a month and a half from the afternoon of the 16th May of 1941, and Mr. L. Narasimhachar, M.A., Junior Technical Assistant, was appointed as acting Assistant to the Director during this period while Pandit R. Chakravarti acted as Junior Technical Assistant.

A temporary staff consisting of a pandit and a typist was sanctioned for work in connection with the rapid publication of the supplementary volumes of the Epigraphia Carnatica. The typist was entertained with effect from 24th April 1941, and arrangements are being made to secure the services of a suitable Pandit.

Tours : Exploration.

In connection with the study and inspection of ancient monuments in the State and the collection of inscriptions, the Director and the Junior Technical Assistant toured in several parts of the Kolar and Shimoga districts, while the Assistant to the Director toured in parts of the Mysore, Tumkur and Hassan districts for collecting and copying inscriptions. Among the ancient sites and monuments inspected and studied during the year may be mentioned those at Guḍibaṇḍe, Dēvaraguḍipalli, Sādali, Bētamangala, Hungunda, Maḍivāḷa, Mārkaṇḍēśvarabeṭṭa, Sivārapaṭṇa, Kōlār, Narasāpura, Hoskōṭe, Nandaguḍi, Beḷḷūr, Ānandapura, Hosagunda, Gauja, Shikārpur, Belgāmi, Tāḷgunda, Bandalike, Chikkamāgaḍi, Maḷavaḷḷi, Kubaṭūr, Bhārangi, Kuppagaḍḍe, Udri, Sorab, Chandragutti, Ikkeri and Keḷadi.

In the neighbourhood of the Kolar Gold Fields was discovered a wide field of cromlechs. The ancient site at Hungunda seems to be important like that of Chandravaḷḷi near Chitaldrug; the potsherds, particularly, appear to present interesting data for study. There is room for thinking that the place might mark the

site of a pre-Śātavāhana town. But the existence of cromlechs here like those met with at Brahmagiri suggests the possibility of there having been also a prehistoric iron age town in the vicinity, while the series of caves round about Sītiguḍḍa near Hungunda Paṭṇa appear to have been the dwelling places of man from the Neolithic times. In front of the Sītiguḍḍa cave was picked up a neolithic celt and nearby were discovered several cup-like depressions on the rocks. Hungunda seems to be a promising site for excavation and exploration. That it was a very important place during the Noḷamba and Chōḷa periods is gathered from the many inscriptions at the place. The 'dimāla-diṇṇe' to the south-east of the village is an ash-heap and may represent the old site where gold was extracted, if the authors of the cromlechs were pre-historic gold diggers.

A tour in parts of the Shimoga district has resulted in the discovery, for the first time, of monuments belonging to the Rāshṭrakūṭa period. Some information about the architecture and art of the period is collected and it seems to be important in the reconstruction of the early history of architecture and sculpture in Mysore.

The main cell of the Vijayēndra temple at Bētamangala is a monument of the 10th century A.D., though the large beautiful image inside the garbhagriha seems to belong to a much later period. At Śivārapaṭṇa the Sōmēśvara temple appears to belong to the time of Śrīpurusha, the Ganga king (c. 753 A.D.). The Varadarāja temple at the same place has some fine pillars in its mukhamaṇṭapa. At Maḍivāḷa near Bētamangala the Svayambhuvēśvara temple is a structure built during the days of Iḷavañjirāya, grandfather of Iḷavañji Vāsudēvarāya, the builder of the Sōmēśvara temple at Kuruḍumale. Thus the temple is one of the early monuments of the east Mysore school of architecture with a combination of Hoysaḷa and Draviḍian features.

The Mārkaṇḍēśvara temple on the Mārkaṇḍēśvara-beṭṭa near Vakkalēri is a large and interesting monument of the Draviḍian style discovered during the year. Though originally constructed in c. 1400 it appears to have been extended subsequently, during the days of Sugaṭūr Tammegauḍa. It is interesting to note that the temple was endowed by a Muslim general named Sitab Khan for the merit of his master Dilāvar Khan in about 1556 A.D.

Conservation.

During the early part of the year, the Director's conservation notes in respect of the ancient monuments inspected by him during 1939-40 were forwarded to Government, the Deputy Commissioners, the Muzrai Commissioner and the Chief Engineer as usual for favour of information and necessary action.

Proposals for further renovation work at Bēlūr and Hāḷebīḍ have been noted and urgent items submitted to Government. Arrangements have been made to prepare a bhaktavigraha statue of His late Highness Sri Krishnaraja Wadiyar IV in *vañchalōha* and install it at the Bēlūr temple. In connection with the conservation of the Gōmaṭēśvara colossus at Śravaṇabeḷagoḷa, the Committee met on 29th March

1941, and discussed the views of the several members. It was resolved that for the present experiments might be conducted with Venyl Acetate at Bangalore and Śravaṇabelagoḷa on stones similar in quality to that of the image. An estimate for the construction of a masonry wall in place of the existing packing wall supporting the right wing of the lower portion of the statue was returned countersigned. In connection with the conservation of the other ancient monuments in the State, several estimates were received as usual. Most of them were passed while some were returned for revision. Among the estimates scrutinised and countersigned may be mentioned those pertaining to the following monuments :—

1. Śrīkaṇṭhēśvara Temple at Nañjangūḍ.
2. The temples at Beḷḷūr.
3. The temple at Kūḍli.
4. Do Hosabūdanūr.
5. Kailāsēśvara temple at Doḍmaḷūr.
6. Fort at Chitaldrug.
7. Hoṇḍa at Santebennūr.
8. Tripurāntaka temple at Belgāmi.
9. The temples at Kōlār.

Epigraphy.

About 60 inscriptions were collected during the year of which 4 are copper plate records and the rest stone epigraphs. The majority of them have been edited in Part VI of the Report under the Director's guidance by Mr. R. Rama Rao assisted by the Pandits. Of these one is a copper plate record from Koṇḍrahaḷḷi, Hoskote Taluk, issued in the 39th regnal year of the Ganga king Kongaṇi Muttarasar, perhaps a name of Śrīpurusha, and recording the grant of the village Śāliggāme to a Brahman named Bhūtaśarma.

Another copper plate belonging to the village Vadanagal, Pāvagaḍa Taluk, records the creation of an agrahār named Bukkarāyapura by Bommaṇa, under the orders of Prince Bhūpati Voḍeyar, son of Bukka II, who is called heir-apparent (bhāvinam sārvabhaumam). The grant was issued during the reign of the Vijayanagar king Harihara II. Bhūpati, although a son of Bukka II, the eldest son of Harihara II, did not succeed his grandfather on the throne. His uncle Dēvarāya I ascended the throne in 1406 and Bhūpati Voḍeyar remained as governor under him till about 1420.

A third copper plate grant from the village Chōḷeyanahaḷḷi in Guḍibaṇḍe Taluk dated Śaka 1351 records the gift of the village Chōḷiśeṭṭipalli, renamed Tryambakapura Agrahāra, to some Brahmans by Dēvarāya II of Vijayanagar. Among the donees the first to be mentioned is Kriyāśakti, called the world teacher (bhuvanaguru) of the Kāśyapa-gōtra and Yajuś-śākhā. The recording of the gōtra and sūtra of Kriyāśakti-guru, who exercised great influence on Dēvarāya II and his subordinates, is of some importance.

The fourth copper plate record of the year is of the reign of the Vijayanagar king Harihara II and mentions the governor of Gōvā named Bāchaṇṇa Voḍeyar or Bhāskara who granted an agrahāra village named Kāṇvapura.

Of the stone records one mentions the names of Vikramāditya, the Chālukya king, and Konguṇi Arasar, the Ganga king, as engaged in a fight with the Pallavas (Kāḍuveṭṭi). This stone record comes from Jangamarahaḷḷi in Pāvagaḍa Taluk. Another stone record found at Bechirak Dēvalāpura in Kolar Taluk belongs to the reign of the Vijayanagar king Sadāśiva and records some grant made for the temple of Mārkaṇḍēśvara by Sitāpaka Maluka Voḍeyar (Malik Sitab Khan ?), agent of Dilāvarkhān, who was apparently a Mussalman. The record is dated Śaka 1479.

Another stone record found at Bēlūr records the gift of some lands to the guru Surēndratīrtha-śrīpāda of Bēlūr for the worship of the God Rāma and the maintenance of his matt by Guṇḍappadaṇṇāyaka under the direction of Teppada Nāgaṇṇa Voḍeyar, subordinate of Harihara II. It belongs to the year Bahudhānya which probably corresponds to 1398 A.D. A monk named Surēndratīrtha of the Mādhva sect is mentioned in the succession list of Śrī Rāghavēndrasvāmi Matt at Nañjanguḍ as the guru of Vijayēndra-tīrtha and a contemporary of Vyāsatīrtha who flourished in the reign of Kṛishṇarāya (1509–1529). Apparently this Surēndratīrtha belonged to a different lineage.

Numismatics: A few coins were acquired for the office Museum from Gwalior, Lucknow, the Bombay Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, etc. The electro-type casts of coins prepared for exhibition at the Bangalore Museum were arranged and forwarded to the Curator of the Museum. Specimens of coins and coin impressions received for examination from some private persons were duly examined and returned after identification. A gold coin received from the Amildar of Chennagiri was also examined and returned. Some treasure trove coins discovered near Muḷbāgal and preserved at the Kōlār District Treasury were scrutinised. The coins of the Śātavāhana period discovered at the Chandravaḷḷi excavations were further studied and classified. A note on the East Chālukya coins in the possession of the Department has been prepared for publication in the detailed Annual Report for the year.

Manuscripts. A manuscript entitled "Koḍagina-Kaifiyat" was obtained from the Records section of the General and Revenue Secretariat for examination. It is about 15′ long and consists of one long sheet of paper written on both the sides in Kannaḍa. At the end it bears in English the signature of Vīrarājendra, the Raja of Coorg. It gives information about some battles fought during the fourth Mysore War (1798–99). A review of the manuscript is published in Part V of the Report.

Library and museum. About 54 books were acquired for the Library and one set of five copper plates and six coins for the office Museum.

Publications.

The annual reports of the department for 1938 and 1939 were published and that for 1940 was printed. In connection with the rapid publication of the Supplementary volumes of the Epigraphia Carnatica, a special staff has been sanctioned. It is hoped to bring out these volumes early. A Guide to Belgāmi has been prepared for publication. Kannada versions for the Guide books to Talkāḍ, Bēlūr, Haḷēbīḍ and Seringapatam have also been prepared for publication.

Finances.

The receipts and expenditure of the Department under budget heads amounted to Rs. 14,749–1–9 and Rs. 14,749–1–9 respectively. A sum of Rs. 530–12–9 was realised by the sale of departmental publications and photographs.

The success of the work of the Department was rendered possible by the sincere co-operation of the members of the office staff.